



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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USDA TO MEASURE NEW ENGLAND TURKEY INDUSTRY

The preliminary estimate of turkeys raised in the United States during 2002 is 270 million head, down one percent from 2001. Massachusetts' production was projected to decrease from last year and Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Vermont productions were projected to be the same as in 2001. The preliminary turkeys raised estimate was based on poult data collected from turkey hatcheries nationwide. A more complete and up-to-date count is taken when turkeys are about to be slaughtered each fall.

Approximately 500 New England turkey growers will be mailed a form in mid-October asking for information about turkeys raised in 2002. Growers who have not returned their form by November 4 will be called early to avoid conflict with the busy Thanksgiving period. This effort is actually a census of all known turkey operations regardless of size. If you have not received a questionnaire as of November 1, please call 1-800-642-9571 so you can be counted in this annual census of your industry.

USDA's annual Fall Turkey Inquiry is the only chance to officially measure final turkey production in 2002. Along with flock sizes, other information is requested for mortality, weights, and average prices received. As with all surveys conducted by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, individual information is kept strictly confidential and is even exempt from requests under the Freedom of Information Act. The individual reports are only used in combination to establish state and national estimates.

National survey results will be released in the *Turkeys* report from Washington, D.C. in mid-January, 2003. All reports are available on the Internet within minutes of the scheduled release time. Statistics that are specific to the New England States will be reprinted in the January issue of the *Ag Review*. The monthly New England *Ag Review* is available on the Internet and complimentary copies are also mailed to survey participants upon request.

[The New England Agricultural Statistics Service is a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Located in Concord, New Hampshire, it is responsible for agricultural statistics in all six states in the region. The office can be reached at 1-800-642-9571 or through e-mail at nass-nh@nass.usda.gov. All national statistics and state level newsletters are available through free e-mail subscriptions and on the Internet at www.usda.gov/nass/.]

For More Information Contact: Emily McAllister at 1-800-642-9571.